

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 19, 2005**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at**

**7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Frank Maher, and William Munroe. Member McFadden left the meeting early at 9:20 p.m. Susan DeSack, Chairperson; was absent. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton; was absent.**

**ORDER – Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission statement.**

**OPEN FORUM –**

**PRESENTATION – Sr. High School Student – Eagle Scout Service Project – High school student Thomas Covill explained he is a member of Boy Scout Troop 35 – West Greenwich and is in the**

process of applying for Eagle Scout. As part of the process, he is required to plan and follow-through with a service project that will better his community. He referenced the plans he had provided to committee members and asked School Committee members for approval to go forward with his plan to build gardens adjacent to the existing senior high school greenhouse. Consensus of the committee was to support Thomas' plan. Members commended Thomas for his dedication to the Boy Scout organization and for his efforts to pursue the achievement of such a prestigious award.

**EWG Hockey Rink –Update –** Joe Walsh updated committee members on the various charities he has been in contact with and recent visitations he has made to hockey rink sites in other states. He explained he is working on forming an advisory board and gave a breakdown of board members' occupational backgrounds. Mr. Walsh communicated that although the proposed facility would be built on school land, the operational costs would be of no cost to the school district or the towns of Exeter and West Greenwich and the facility would be available for use by all towns, not just Exeter and West Greenwich. He asked members if the School Committee is interested in this facility being built on school grounds.

Member Clay, Clerk Coutcher, and Vice Chair Cicero expressed they would like to see such a facility; however they have concerns about using school land when the district will need to build a new school in the very near future. Member Coutcher extended an invitation to Mr.

**Walsh to join the Space Needs Committee, in order to incorporate his plan with the plan to build a new school.**

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**Mr. Walsh was receptive to Clerk Coutcher's invitation. Vice Chair Cicero reminded all to be respectful of the Metcalf family when discussing land without them present. Superintendent Seitsinger will contact Mr. Walsh with details regarding the next Space Needs Committee meeting.**

**Laidlaw – Epi-Pen – Update – Member McFadden asked Attorney Brad Gorham if he was present at this meeting at the request of the Superintendent.**

**Vice Chair Cicero explained both she and the Superintendent had requested Mr. Gorham attend tonight's meeting with regard to the epi-pen issue. Vice Chair Cicero gave a detailed overview of past and present dealings the district has had with Laidlaw Bus Co. regarding the training of bus drivers and monitors to administer epi-pen's to students in emergency situations. She explained Laidlaw recently changed their policy to not allow their employees to administer epi-pens if necessary, as they were not included in RI law as being exempt of liability. She also explained that language was changed through an amendment to the existing law to include drivers and**

monitors, and the new law was passed on July 13th. She then asked Mr. Cliff Gibson, Vice President of Operations of Laidlaw of New England, when to schedule epi-pen training for Laidlaw's drivers and monitors.

Mr. Gibson communicated his employees would attend training to learn to recognize an allergic reaction but would not be trained to administer epi-pens. He explained should his employees recognize an emergency on the bus; the driver will secure the bus, pick up the radio, and call the dispatcher. The dispatcher would then decide whether or not to call 911.

After lengthy discussion, comments, and viewpoints by committee members, community members, parents, teachers, Representative Sullivan, Attorney Brad Gorham, Mr. Gibson and the Superintendent, Mr. Gibson related he was happy he had come to hear the district's concerns regarding this issue and he would communicate the district's concerns to Laidlaw's corporate office and that he sincerely wants to find a resolution to remedy this matter. He agreed to communicate with Laidlaw's legal counsel to see if they are willing to work with the district to find a resolution to this problem.

Member McFadden expressed his belief that the School Committee has been deceived by Laidlaw Bus Co. over the past 6-months and his hope that the district and Laidlaw Bus Co. will come to a reasonable solution to this situation.

**Member McFadden moved to place a vote of no confidence against Laidlaw Bus Co. Vice Chair Cicero seconded. Voted. 5 – 1. Member Clay voted no.**

**A parent requested the district inform parents of what procedures are taken relating to Laidlaw Bus Co. and emergencies. Superintendent Seitsinger explained the district has**

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**its own policy regarding medical emergencies and parents will be made aware of it. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gibson for attending the meeting to hear the district's concerns and explained that with regard to this issue, he is in disagreement with Laidlaw's policy not to administer epi-pens to students in need.**

**Attorney Gorham left at this time – 8:35 p.m.**

**A 5-minute recess was taken at this time.**

**Meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.**

**Member McFadden requested that item VII. D. Adopt New Textbook – Continuance be address at this time and to defer any action on the adoption of the textbook until Members McFadden and Maher have**

the opportunity to review the textbook. Consensus was to table this agenda item to the next School Committee meeting in August.

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

Clerk Coutcher requested agenda item B. Personnel Items 1. Appointments e. Director of Curriculum be pulled from the consent agenda. Member Clay requested B. Personnel Items 1. Appointments a. and B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments b. be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with items B.1. a., b., and e. pulled . Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

The following items were approved:

**A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of May June 28, 2005**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments – (As recommended by the Superintendent)**

**c. Christopher Cobain as Senior High School Director of Student Affairs effective August 1, 2005**

**d. Daniel Gloria job transfer from ELA Grade 8 to ELA Grade 7**

**f. List of Summer Positions:**

**Barbara Valois as Summer School Coordinator and Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

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**Susan Wieboldt as Summer School Literacy Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

**Darlene DiRocco as Summer School Literacy Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

**Annie Campbell as Summer School Literacy Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

**Ann Dean as Summer School Literacy Assistant Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

**Deb Blake as Summer Reading Recovery Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

**Sally Kent as Summer Reading Recovery Teacher at  
Wawaloam School – Summer 2005**

## **2. Leaves of Absence**

### **3. Resignations - (As recommended by the Superintendent with regret)**

**a. Letter of Resignation from Jennifer Baptista as a .4 FTE  
Middle School Physical Education/Health Teacher  
effective**

**July 19, 2005**

**b. Letter of Resignation from Sheila Harvey as a Middle School  
ELA Teacher effective July 19, 2005**

## **4. Grievances**

**C. Bills – July invoices in the amount of \$66,694.34, June 30,  
2005, Accruals**

**in the amount of \$158,430.98**

**End of Consent Agenda**

**Sodexho Presentation – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained he met with Sodexho representatives however; Member Maher was unexpectedly unable to attend that meeting. Mr. Ross recommended tabling this item to the next School Committee meeting in August in order to allow Member Maher and Mr. Ross to first meet with Sodexho representatives.**



**The Superintendent reviewed the correspondence:**

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**D. Correspondence – (1) State of RI Bill 2005-S 0269 Substitute A, (2) Have you ever wished you had:, (3) Recommendation for fire alarm at Jr. – Sr. High School and quotes**

**MONTHLY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Policy Committee – Member Maher made comment with respect to the report regarding amendments made to Policy 9700-Facility Use - to excuse Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from the \$10 application fee. Member Maher noted it was agreed at the previous School Committee meeting that the amendment would read all youth groups would be excused from the \$10 application fee, not just Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.**

**Member Clay agreed and will make the necessary changes to this policy later in the meeting under agenda item VII. E. School Facility Use Policy #9700-Revision Adoption**

**Vice Chair Cicero reverted back to B. Personnel Items, 1. c. Christopher Cobain as Senior High School Director of Student Affairs effective August 1, 2005 and offered recognition and congratulations to Mr. Cobain on his new appointment. All members applauded in**

recognition of Mr. Cobain's assignment. Mr. Cobain thanked committee members for the opportunity.

**NEW BUSINESS – Fire Alarm Status-Jr./Sr. High School & Metcalf School –** Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced a memo provided and gave an overview of his recommendation for fire alarm repair at the Jr./Sr. High School, as well as an overview of two quotes from American Fire Alarm, Inc. Mr. Ross explained he recommended quote 1 – the Mircom panel because the FCI panel (quote 2) license will expire in six months.

Member Clay moved to accept quote 1, as recommended by Mr. Ross, so that the district will be able to open the Jr./Sr. High School on time. Vice Chair Cicero seconded.

#### **Discussion:**

Member McFadden inquired as to why a quote was not provided with regard to Metcalf's fire alarm system repair as requested at the previous School Committee meeting. Member McFadden expressed his displeasure with the fact that a quote for Metcalf's fire alarm repair was not provided as requested. It was explained that American Alarm is working on the quote, but had not completed it in time for the meeting.

Members and Administration had a lengthy discussion regarding payment of the fire alarm repairs and the differences in urgency to

address the repairing of the fire alarm system at the Jr./Sr. High School first and then at Metcalf School, as the Jr./Sr. High School needed to be addressed immediately, as West Greenwich Fire Chief Hoxsie will not allow the building to open until fixed, and Metcalf was reported as a safe building –

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fire alarm working – but needs to be brought to code - with no timeline imposed. Mr. Ross reported he will be meeting with Exeter Fire Chief Franklin and Joe St. Jean next week.

Mr. Ross explained the Jr./Sr. High School repair will take approximately two weeks to complete and American Fire Alarm, Inc. is looking for a commitment as soon as possible.

Member McFadden moved to amend the motion on the floor to also follow what procedure is done at the Jr./Sr. High School quotes to bring Metcalf to code.

A vote was taken on motion 1 – Member Clay’s original motion to accept quote 1, as recommended by Mr. Ross, so that the district will be able to open the Jr./Sr. High School on time. Voted 6 – 0. This was an emergency action taken by the School Committee.

Member McFadden moved to proceed in inquiring quotes to repair

**Metcalf's fire alarm system, making this a high priority, if at all possible prior to the beginning of the school year. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Member McFadden left the meeting at this time. 9:20 p.m.**

**Vending Machines – Types & Contents – Member Maher gave an overview of the beverage and snack machines at the various schools within the district. He recommended replacing snack machine items considered to be not healthy with healthy choices and to remove soda machines.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger communicated that he supported Member Maher's recommendation but requested Member Maher involve the building principals in this transition process.**

**Consensus was this transition would take place prior to the opening of school provided there are no contract provisions pending, to meet and include principals, vendors, and school nurses in decision making/process, and if there are contract provisions in place, have effective date take place at the end of the contract. Mr. Ross will tie this meeting in with the Sodexo meeting.**

**Member Maher moved to have the district move forward with the removal of unhealthy snacks and all soda machines in the district, provided there are no contract provisions in place, by September 1,**

**2005. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 – 0.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Sodexo Meal Price Increase – This agenda item was tabled, as noted earlier in this evening's meeting.**

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**Lineham Roof – Recommendations – Mr. Ross referenced his memo provided to committee members regarding the Lineham roof bids and gave his recommendation of selecting option #2 to accept the Value-Engineering price of \$59,658. The lower price is achieved through the use of less expensive materials.**

**Member Clay moved to accept Mr. Ross' recommendation of selecting option #2 to accept the Value-Engineering price of \$59,658 to repair Lineham School's roof. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.**

**Discussion:**

**Mr. Ross communicated the roof repair included a 12-year warranty/guarantee and the only unexpected additional cost he anticipated may occur is the cost of wood decking. Mr. Ross communicated the repair will take approximately one week to complete and is hoping to go forward with a start date of the first week in August, in order to complete the repair prior to the opening of**

**school.**

**Member Maher moved to amend the motion on the floor to give the Superintendent permission to allocate additional funds, if necessary, up to \$4,999 at the discretion of the Superintendent. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.**

**Vote on motion as amended. Voted 5 – 0.**

**School Facilities Use Policy #9700 – Revision Adoption – Member Clay communicated the policy committee would make the further recommended revisions to the School Facilities Use Policy #9700.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to adopt the School Facilities Use Policy #9700 as amended. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 5 – 0.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – Vice Chair Cicero reverted back to consent agenda items pulled. Member Clay requested item B. Personnel Items 1. Appointments a. and b. be pulled from the consent agenda, as he is apposed to appointments without first receiving a published teachers' contract. He requested these appointments be tabled until the teachers' contract is signed and distributed for review.**

**Member Clay moved to table the appointments of a. Maureen Pontarelli as Mentor Coordinator Grades K – 6 and b. Anne Arvidson as Mentor Coordinator Grades 7 – 12, until the teachers' contract has**

been signed and distributed. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 5 – 0.

Superintendent Seitsinger explained that these appointments meet all contractual requirements and that the contract has been distributed to legal counsel and is awaiting a final reading to be sure there are no discrepancies.

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Clerk Coutcher requested item B. Personnel Items 1. Appointments e. Curriculum Director be pulled from the consent agenda. Superintendent Seitsinger recommended postponing this appointment until he has the opportunity to check the references and certifications of the two finalists. He also recommended the School Committee discuss the possibility of a multi-year contract for this position, as both finalists are interested in the position only if there is a multi-year contract in place and it would be unfair to offer the position without that clarity.

Member Clay moved to offer a 3-year contract to the Director of Curriculum finalist. Vice Chair Cicero seconded.

**Discussion:**

Member Munroe communicated he was against offering a 3-year contract at this time and felt a 2-year contract at the most would be

**acceptable.**

**Member Munroe moved to amend the motion on the floor to offer a 2-year contract to the Director of Curriculum finalist. No one seconded the motion. Motion failed.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to amend the motion to offer a 2-year contract with a 3rd year option based on the Superintendent's evaluation of performance. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Vote on amendment 4 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.**

**Vote on motion as amended 4 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.**

**Clarification of amended motion: To offer a 2-year contract to the Director of Curriculum finalist with a 3rd year option based on the Superintendent's evaluation of performance.**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – August 9, 2005-School Committee**

**Meeting, August 23, 2005-School Committee Meeting, August 29, 2005-Teachers**

**Return, August 31, 2005-Students Return**

**After a brief discussion, it was recommended the next scheduled School Committee meeting of August 9th be rescheduled to Wednesday, August 3, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School**



**Library, as four committee members are unavailable on August 9th.**

**Member Maher moved to reschedule the next School Committee meeting to August 3, 2005, (instead of August 9, 2005), at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.**

**Member Maher recommended Administration contact The Providence Journal to notify them not to list EWG School Committee meetings in their Municipal Almanac unless**

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**they confirm the meeting date with Administration first, as they have listed incorrect information in the past.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Adjournment – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 5 – 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**